

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

This would appear to
be electioneering in
a most outrageous
sense. Sinclair
already has
demonstrated their
partisan management
by forbidding their
stations to air the
Ted Koppel
Nightline show that
simply did honor to
our soldiers who
died in the current
Iraq conflict.

If they insist on
forcing their
stations to air this
anti-Kerry
documentary, then
they should be
required to air the
other side in the
form of anti-Bush
programming of equal
value.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions

show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.